with the figures for 1088 was due to the defective demarcation of the areas of the reserved forests. He complained against the rigid enforcement of the Forest Rules which forbade cultivation of forest areas. He added that the gross revenue of the Forest Department amounted only to a little over 12 lacs of rupees and was quite inadequate to the extent of the forest area. The revenue could be enhanced by greater attention being paid to the minor produce of the forests. He also said that the swamp areas within the forests, which were admirably suited for paddy cultivation, should be assigned to the people. That would increase the supply of paddy in the country and thereby promote the interests alike of the Government and the people.

The Member also suggested that a scientific survey of the forests of the State should be ordered to be made conjointly by the Conservator of Forests, the Director of Agriculture and any other officers the Government might consider necessary.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's remarks will be referred to the Conservator of Forests for report.

12. The need for the relaxation of the stringency of the Forest Rules in respect of Cardamom cultivation.

Mr. Sannyasi Mallayan Chetti (Member, Devikulam taluk) observed that cardamom cultivation was originally carried on by the adjoining British ryots, and that, during the past 100 years, the cultivation had declined and become difficult. The difficulty was accentuated by the recent enhancement of the acreage value on cardamom lands from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per acre, and also the enforcement of the payment of 5 years' assessment as penalty for occupation of cardamom lands by a mere executive order of the Superintendent of Devikulam. He also pointed out that the stringent enforcement of the Forest Rules did not permit the cardamom ryots to use fire-arms freely, to cut down the trees standing on cardamom lands and use the timber for their own private purposes, and to graze their cattle in the adjoining forests. He also referred to the fall in the demand for cardamom on account of the European war and the general indebtedness of the cardamom ryots. He therefore requested—

(1) that the *tharavila* on cardamom lands should be reduced and the system of levying arrears of assessment as penalty abolished ;

(2) that the Forest Rules should be relaxed so as to permit the free use of the forests adjoining cardamom lands for grazing purposes and also the free felling of the reserved trees on cardamom lands for the private use of the ryots concerned ;

(3) that the cardamom ryots be permitted generally to use fire-arms and to shoot such of the wild animals as were dangerous to cultivation ; and

(4) that the Government might afford all other facilities required for the successful cultivation of cardamom lands.

Dewan's reply.—The Superintendent of Devikulam and the Conservator of Forests will be asked to report on the Member's representations.

(3) Excise, Trade and Customs Revenue.

13. The necessity for appointing a Committee for the development of trade.

Mr. K. A. Krishna Pattar (Member, Trading Classes, Quilon) said that the trade of the country was almost wholly in the hands of outsiders. The important raw products, *viz.*, copra, pepper, cocoanut oil, dried ginger and hides, were exported through foreign agencies and the finished products too were imported through the same agencies. To encourage local traders, the Member suggested the appointment of a Special Officer to instruct them on the condition of the different markets in the world, the time of demand for particular articles of trade in particular markets and the easiest means of transmission of the products concerned to the proper markets

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He also added that a Director of Industries might be appointed to instruct the people in the manufacture of the several articles imported into the country out of the available local raw produce, and start and develop many industries in the State.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

14. The hardships and inconveniences caused to the people by the Excise Department and suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. K. C. Govindan (Member, Nominated) pointed out that, while tobacco was planted and cultivated in several parts of India, it was regrettable that the entire quantity of the stuff required for consumption in Travancore was being imported from Jaffna, Tinnevelly and Coimbatore. Quoting the statistics for the import of tobacco into the State during 1088 and 1089, the Member observed that the use of tobacco was appreciably on the increase from year to year. In view of the importance of tobacco as an article of trade and also having regard to the large profits to outside merchants by the trade, the Member requested that the prohibition to cultivate tobacco in the State should be removed and that the cultivation should be encouraged, especially in places where the plant would thrive.

Like tobacco, ganja too was once cultivated in different parts of the State. The quantity of ganja imported into the country was also steadily increasing, and therefore the Member requested the Government to start and encourage the cultivation of the plant in suitable localities within the State.

As regards salt, the Member pointed out that, originally the whole quantity of salt required for local consumption was produced in the State. He advocated the complete abolition of the import of Bombay and Tuticorin salt and the encouragement of the local production of salt to meet the full local demand.

The Member next proceeded to consider the excise system of the State, and pointed out that the evils of the system were the following:—

(1) it had almost completely discouraged the tapping industry which constituted the life-work of an important section of the people in the State;

(2) the system, although it professed to discourage drinking, did not only not achieve that end, but was showing contrary effects; and

(3) so far as the excise offences were concerned, the conduct of the cases by the departmental officers and the magistracy was unsatisfactory.

He said that, with the introduction of the patta arrack, the tapping industry had gone down in the State to the great loss of the people engaged therein and of the Government revenue. The profit to the Government for every gallon of patta arrack was Re. 1 chs. 5 c. 6 and that for the toddy arrack was Re. 1 chs. 15 c. 6. In 1089, about 14 lacs of gallons of spirits, consisting of jaggery and toddy arrack, were consumed. If the whole quantity were toddy arrack, the profit to the Government would have far exceeded the amount they actually obtained in the year. He said that there was no ground for the apprehension that, with the introduction of toddy arrack, the consumption of spirits would decrease, for the actual percentage of the consumption of toddy arrack in the State in 1089 was far in excess of that of jaggery arrack.

The Member then went into the statistics for 1088 and 1089 and he argued that the consumption of country and foreign liquor was steadily on the increase and that the new excise system had not succeeded in discouraging the very pernicious habit of drink in the country. The consumption of jaggery arrack was fraught with serious consequences to public health and the policy of the Government to encourage the manufacture of patta arrack in preference to the less injurious toddy arrack was very objectionable.

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